

as our Staff Director. Her knowledge, temperament, strategic acumen, and drive for thorough and accurate analysis made her the obvious choice.

Ellen is one of the most respected budget experts in Washington. And during her tenure as staff director, she was instrumental in the development and passage of several key pieces of legislation, including the 2021 concurrent budget resolution and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. In fact, she delayed her planned retirement for several months to help shepherd these two critically important bills through final passage. She knew we had the chance to implement transformative change for our country, and she stayed so we could benefit from her expertise and experience. This selfless dedication to the work of the Congress and service to the American people are emblematic of Ellen's character and entire career. It is impossible to overstate what an asset Ellen was to the Budget Committee and House Leadership overall. To make public policy that does what it is intended to do, that truly delivers for the American people, everything must, quite literally, add up. And when it comes to budget tables and congressional calculations, there were numbers, and then there were Ellen's numbers. Hers were the gold standard. Always reliable, always dependable—like Ellen herself.

Over the years, Ellen impacted scores of Capitol Hill staffers who worked for and with her. From interns to senior analysts, her kind and steady leadership has left an indelible mark on all of those who learned from her and the example she set as an effective and dedicated public servant. I want to thank Ellen for her candid advice, thoughtful analysis and most importantly, her friendship. I wish her nothing but the best in her hard-earned and well-deserved retirement.

WELCOME, HUNTER TAYLOR
WILSON, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, happiest congratulations to my daughter-in-law and son, Dr. Julianne and Hunter Wilson on the birth of their new baby boy. Hunter Taylor Wilson, Jr., who was born at 2:00 a.m., on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, weighing 7 pounds and 14 ounces, measuring 17 inches long at Palmetto Health Richland Memorial Prisma Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina.

Additionally, congratulations to grateful Hunter's grandparents Norma Jett and John Jett of West Columbia, South Carolina, and my wife, Roxanne Wilson of Springdale, South Carolina. We are so grateful for this new addition to the Wilson family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONNECTED NATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Connected Nation. Beginning in 2001 at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Connected Nation has grown and evolved to the national non-profit it is today.

For the past 20 years, the people behind Connected Nation have devoted their efforts to expanding access to and the adoption of broadband and related technologies. The non-profit's work includes job skills training, research, mapping, and free connectivity and devices to at-risk youth.

The non-profit's mission statement reads in part, "Everyone belongs in a Connected Nation." Closing the digital divide is critical for Kentuckians and Americans across the country. Federal and private partnerships are key as we work to expand broadband access. Congratulations to Connected Nation on more than 20 years serving communities across the country.

CONGRATULATING LARRY J.
MILLER

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Larry J. Miller on his retirement after fifty years of service to PeoplesBank, which is headquartered in York County, Pennsylvania and operates branches throughout Pennsylvania's Eleventh District. In 1971, Larry started his career at PeoplesBank as a management trainee and just a decade later, he became the bank's president, making him the youngest person in Pennsylvania to hold such a position. Larry's hard work and dedication brought him further success as he took on the role of Chief Executive Officer for both PeoplesBank and its parent company, Codorus Valley Bancorp, serving in each of those positions for thirty-five years.

Under Larry's leadership, PeoplesBank opened twenty-five new branches, created mortgage and trust divisions, and grew to hold more than \$2 billion in assets. Larry has similarly taken on leadership and community service roles, including positions as Chairman of the Board of Directors for several nonprofits, such as the United Way of York County and the Cultural Alliance of York County.

We thank Larry for all that he has done for the people of Pennsylvania's Eleventh District and wish him a restful and well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR
AARON GADBOIS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Aaron Gadbois, who will be leaving my office after a year of distinguished service to the people of Texas Congressional District 12.

Aaron joined my office in January 2021 through the Department of Defense (DOD) Legislative Fellowship Program. This highly selective program assigns servicemembers to congressional offices for one year, allowing them the opportunity to gain valuable legislative experience and contribute to the work of Congress. Demand for DOD Fellows always outstrips supply, so offices must compete to be assigned one. I was lucky to be assigned a Fellow of Aaron's caliber.

Aaron has a tremendous record of service. At 17, he enlisted in the Air National Guard and was assigned to the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard, before later joining the "Capital Guardians" of the 113th Wing, District of Columbia Air National Guard, where he earned his commission. In recent years, he served in missions to the Korean Peninsula, the Philippine Islands and Poland, and after completing his service in my office, Aaron will return to the 113th Wing, where he will continue his service to our Nation.

Aaron is one of six children of Barb and Larry Gadbois—in a family that epitomizes the Air National Guard's citizen service member ideal. Remarkably, all six Gadbois siblings served, or are currently serving, in the Air National Guard. A proud South Dakotan, Aaron loves the outdoors. His passion for hunting and fishing is clear to anyone who has taken a virtual meeting with him and noticed the trophies that adorn his home office.

With a Bachelor of Science degree from South Dakota State University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Southwest Minnesota State University, he has earned impressive civilian qualifications that have served him well from the private sector to his service as a full-time, active duty member of the Air National Guard.

The Appropriations Committee can be a daunting environment for a Fellow to enter, but Aaron took to his work methodically and enthusiastically, relishing the opportunity to expand his knowledge and contribute to the legislative process. Aaron had a leg up in his wife Stephanie, a veteran Committee staff member. I suspect she may be partially responsible for his quick learning curve in the intricacies of the appropriations process. Additionally, Texas's 12th District is home to numerous DOD priorities including the F-35 program, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, and thousands of Active, Guard, and Reserve servicemembers. Aaron quickly built a relationship with these entities, mastered their issues, and was essential in helping me fight for them.

Aaron made a great impact on his fellow staff members. He brought to my office a level head, hard-earned wisdom, and a genuine desire to mentor and learn from his coworkers. He integrated seamlessly into the team, joining us for our staff retreat and getting to know

not just his colleagues in my Washington office, but the district-based staff in Fort Worth as well. Aaron will be missed for his work, but even more for his presence as a colleague.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I offer Aaron a heartfelt thank you and best wishes for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND RELATED AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR SUCH COURTS AND AGENCIES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would exempt from federal government shutdowns the federal and independent civil and criminal justice system law enforcement agencies that are exclusively or primarily federally funded but have exclusive jurisdiction over District of Columbia matters. This bill is modeled on a provision I have been able to get enacted each year since the 2013 federal government shutdown to exempt the D.C. government from federal government shutdowns.

This bill would exempt the following agencies from federal government shutdowns: Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for D.C., D.C. Courts, D.C. Public Defender Service, D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure, D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. With one exception, these agencies are not under the District's control and are funded exclusively by the federal government. The D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is an independent agency within the D.C. government with federal members that is primarily, but not exclusively, funded by the federal government. These agencies provide critical local services to the District, including law enforcement, and should continue to function during a federal government shutdown.

Each of these agencies has been adversely affected by federal government shutdowns, including canceled services and furloughed employees. My bill would allow these agencies to continue to function during a federal government shutdown, in much the same way that the D.C. government itself is now exempt from shutting down during a federal government shutdown. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HONORING MR. SOHUM PAWAR

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to evacuate vulnerable Afghans during the fall of Kabul, Mr. Sohumi Pawar.

Originally from East Hanover, New Jersey, for many years, Mr. Pawar has worn many hats—scientist, engineer, and policy researcher. Since graduating with honors from little-known schools such as Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he's worked on cybersecurity, climate, and energy policy at the White House, assisted negotiators at the U.S. Department of State working on UN climate talks, and written speeches for the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Beyond public service, he's also worked as a cyber threat intelligence analyst, assessed clean energy startups for a climate-focused venture capital fund, and developed policy and strategy for an advanced nuclear reactor startup. He also has experience in journalism, conducting research for David Sanger, the prominent national journalist for the New York Times and his bestselling book chronicling the rise of cyber warfare.

The knowledge and experience Mr. Pawar acquired in all of these ventures were heavily relied upon when he joined our cobbled-together effort working to evacuate vulnerable Afghans from Kabul. For several sleepless nights, he was part of our tiger team—responsible for gathering the required information for the group of Afghans, verifying the authenticity of documents, and supporting evacuees with letters of support of our own.

Our mission depended on a broad cross-section of skills and traits, from perseverance to grit. Very few people could have handled the flood of information that our office received during those frantic days, and even fewer as quickly and efficiently as Sohumi did. We needed Pawar's to succeed, and it is thanks to him that we did.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Sohumi Pawar for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul. For his meticulous record keeping, for his flexibility and perseverance, and for his dogged pursuit of any lead that would benefit the mission, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING RAVI S. PATEL

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ravi Patel, a valued member of our effort to evacuate Afghan nationals from Kabul to Tirana, Albania.

Mr. Patel has worked in several areas for several key players in the international arena, working as an advisor to former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry as well as serving as the consulting advisor for the executive director of the UN's Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. As a graduate student, he was the executive director of the Stanford University U.S.-Russia Forum, where he put on conferences, in Moscow and on Stanford's campus, in order to bring together students and young leaders from both countries and further the bilateral relationship.

Mr. Patel has always believed in the power of thinking outside the box to find solutions.

The buses that he sourced were ultimately used to carry more than 100 individuals to safety in their hour of greatest need. As they made it through winding Kabul streets until they made it inside the gate at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Mr. Patel was in close coordination with our team. He was Lt. Gen. McMaster's point person on our joint effort to evacuate them on a flight out of Kabul as well, helping to compile the flight manifest that airlifted men, women, and children—some as young as 2 years old—away from danger.

In fact, when one of our evacuees, a four-year old with a severe congenital heart defect, needed urgent medical attention, Mr. Patel sprang into action. He gathered letters of support from some of the top pediatric doctors and surgeons in order to bring her to the U.S. for treatment. Thanks to his relentless pursuit chasing down leads through every available channel, the little girl and her family were granted humanitarian parole and admitted to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Ravi Patel for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his resourcefulness amidst the fog of uncertainty and the chaos of the evacuation as well as for his tireless work in the weeks since, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR WILMA CHAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, alongside Representative JUDY CHU, to honor the life of the late Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, who tragically passed on November 3, 2021. We extend our deepest condolences to her children, grandchildren, family, staff, and loved ones, and to the people of Alameda County who she served so well during her 30-year career in public service.

Supervisor Chan was born in Boston, MA, after her parents immigrated there from China. She attended public schools and went on to receive her bachelor's degree in history from Wellesley College and her master's degree in education policy from Stanford University.

She was a trailblazer throughout her career. She was the first Asian American to serve on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, to which she was elected in 1994, and later became the first Asian American and first woman to hold the position of Majority Leader in the California State Assembly, where she represented the East Bay from 2000 to 2006. In 2010, voters reelected her to the Alameda Board of Supervisors, where she continued to serve until her tragic death.

Supervisor Chan's unyielding commitment to the wellbeing of children, families, and her most vulnerable constituents prevailed throughout her legislative career. During her tenure in the State Assembly, she authored groundbreaking legislation that successfully made California the first state to ban toxic flame retardants, which resulted in a significant decrease in how often those chemicals